United Nations A/57/7/Add.6

General Assembly

Distr.: General
17 October 2002

Original: English

Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 112
Programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

United Nations Fund for International Partnerships

Seventh report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (A/57/133). During its consideration of the report, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information.

2. The Advisory Committee recalls that, following Robert Edward Turner's announcement on 18 September 1997 of a gift valued at $1 billion in support of United Nations causes, a United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP) was created, on 1 March 1998, to interface with the United Nations Foundation (UNF). An agreement was signed on 12 June 1998 between the United Nations and the United Nations Foundation, the text of which is contained in the report of the Secretary-General on UNFIP dated 24 November 1998 (A/53/700, annex).

3. The report of the Secretary-General (A/57/133) was submitted in accordance with General Assembly decision 52/466 of 31 March 1998, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue to inform it on a regular basis about the activities of UNFIP.

4. As indicated in the report, since the launching in 1998 of the partnership between UNFIP and the United Nations Foundation, a total of $423 million had been programmed as at the end of 2001, involving 222 projects in 120 countries and 33 United Nations implementing partners (see para. 35). As shown in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General, of this total amount programmed, $305.1 million represents contributions from UNF and $117.9 million represents contributions from other donors. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee received updated information indicating that the total amount programmed as at 31 August 2002 amounted to $484.6 million, of which $20.5 related to administrative support costs. The updated information provided to the Committee, including the status of

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cash transfers (by tranche) and the status of project implementation, is provided in the annex below.

5. The Advisory Committee notes from the report that a total of $111.9 million was programmed for 2001 as a result of the approvals related to the ninth and tenth funding rounds ($105.7 million) and intersessional requests ($6.2 million). Grants were approved for 55 projects for 2001, in the areas of population and women ($18.4 million), children's health ($32.2 million), peace, security and human rights ($19.2 million), environment ($36.8 million) and institution-building capacity ($5.2 million) (see paras. 46-48 and annex). Section II of the report provides information on the programme areas.

6. In the area of monitoring and evaluation, the Advisory Committee notes that the strategy includes four different components so as to ensure the cost-effective and efficient achievement of the goals in each of the major programmes (ibid., paras. 33-37). However, the Committee noted, during its exchange with the representatives of the Secretary-General, the large number of reports involved. A total of 137 annual progress reports were analysed in 2001 (ibid., para. 36), among other monitoring activities, yet this excludes quarterly reports for the 222 projects undertaken. **The Committee is of the opinion that the present process appears to be onerous and bureaucratic and that the time has come to assess the whole process and to streamline it. The Committee is of the opinion that it is necessary to analyse whether the reporting exercise has enabled UNFIP to become more focused, enabling it to better measure impact and to attain the objective indicated in the Secretary-General's report (see ibid., para. 37). As indicated therein, compelling evidence of the impact of projects supported by UNFIP and UNF will be critical to generating additional resources and creating public-private partnerships in support of United Nations causes (ibid.).**

7. **In this regard, the Advisory Committee notes and welcomes the focus in 2002 on evaluating clusters of projects designed to address a significant issue within a programme area (ibid.). Moreover, the Committee welcomes the utilization of a systems application in order to enhance the capacity of UNFIP to track project implementation and fund flows, thus streamlining the financial reporting modalities of its implementing partners (ibid., para. 51). More needs to be done, however, and the Committee looks forward to seeing evidence of progress in this regard in the next report on UNFIP.**

8. The Advisory Committee enquired about the recent volatility of the stock market and its possible effect on the donation. The Committee was informed that the donor's original pledge remained firm and that, in addition, the United Nations Foundation, in consultation with the United Nations, was considering how to strengthen its support to the United Nations through its advocacy and resource mobilization capacity. The Committee requests that additional information be provided in this regard in the context of the next report to be submitted to the General Assembly. The Committee expresses its appreciation for the continued commitment of the donor.

9. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly take note of the report of the Secretary-General.**

Annex

Project implementation reports

Implementation report 1

United Nations Foundation/United Nations Fund for International Partnerships

Status of cash transfers (by tranche)
for the period from May 1998 to 31 August 2002

(in United States dollars)

			1998-2002		
Funding round UNF Board meeting date	*Number of projects*	*Grant allocations approved by UNF inclusive of programme support costs*	*UNFIP requests to UNF*	*Deposits to UNFIP*	*Remittances to implementing partners*
Tranche 1/May 1998	21	20 915 000	20 915 000	20 915 000	20 915 000
Tranche 2/September 1998	17	31 991 665	30 436 286	30 436 286	30 334 341
Tranche 3/January 1999	25	32 350 261	29 613 892	29 613 868	29 604 494
Tranche 4/May 1999	13	91 395 995	88 148 534	88 148 534	87 506 369
Tranche 5/November 1999	34	58 961 117	49 890 461	49 890 461	49 550 815
Tranche 6/March 2000	10	15 993 777	10 472 315	10 079 195	10 079 195
Tranche 7/July 2000	28	41 283 199	25 726 604	25 726 604	24 996 134
Tranche 8/November 2000	13	16 858 843	11 430 787	11 229 435	11 229 435
Tranche 9/March 2001	36	88 028 698	63 374 059	58 039 816	58 039 816
Tranche 10/November 2001	17	35 083 553	10 508 056	7 180 993	7 110 993
Tranche 11/July 2002	16	26 570 000	700 000	250 000	250 000
Intersessional/1999-2002	16	25 209 917	17 035 786	16 637 897	16 247 660
Total	**246**	**484 642 025**	**358 251 780**	**348 148 089**	**345 864 252**

Implementation report 2

United Nations Foundation/United Nations Fund for International Partnerships

Summary status of project implementation (by tranche) for the period from May 1998 to July 2002 based on expenditure information received by 31 August 2002

(in United States dollars)

				1998-2002		
Funding round UNF Board meeting date	*Number of projects*	*Grant allocations approved by UNF*	*Projects approved by UNF UNFIP*[a]	*Funding approved by UNFIP UNF*	*Expenditure reported by implementing partners*	*Rates of implementation*[b] *(percentage)*
Tranche 1/May 1998	21	19 982 570	19 982 570	19 982 570	16 933 934	85
Tranche 2/September 1998	17	30 641 641	30 641 641	30 641 641	26 055 686	85
Tranche 3/January 1999	25	30 783 032	30 783 032	30 783 032	21 307 249	69
Tranche 4/May 1999	13	87 169 039	87 169 039	86 583 906	78 483 063	91
Tranche 5/November 1999	34	56 231 390	56 231 390	54 205 510	32 328 057	60
Tranche 6/March 2000	10	15 235 225	15 235 225	13 082 030	4 628 936	35
Tranche 7/July 2000	28	39 383 564	39 383 564	31 056 681	13 617 239	44
Tranche 8/November 2000	13	16 075 733	16 075 733	12 011 846	2 163 298	18
Tranche 9/March 2001	36	84 173 966	67 375 720	55 426 921	33 302 513	60
Tranche 10/November 2001	17	33 600 535	15 612 817	8 776 373	1 060 582	12
Tranche 11/July 2002	16	26 510 476	700 000	-	-	0
Intersessional/1999-2002	16	24 318 274	11 304 903	9 003 516	4 594 182	51
Total	**246**	**464 105 444**	**390 495 633**	**351 554 026**	**234 474 739**	**67**
Administrative support costs		20 536 574	18 609 583	17 043 864	12 751 619	N/A
Grand total	**246**	**484 642 018**	**409 105 216**	**368 597 890**	**247 226 358**	**N/A**

[a] This column includes the amounts of project budgets approved by UNFIP.

[b] The formula for the implementation rate is the ratio of expenditures to approved funding.